THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Import of Spares for Walking Dragling

3458. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of Mines and Minerals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Coalfields Ltd. is continuing to import spares for walking dragling manufactured and supplies to it by the ailing Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that HEC offered to get the job of reconditioning done at five percent less cost then quoted by the US-based Bucyrus International for reconditioning of dragling; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not helping the HEC by placing orders for repairs and reconditioning etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Accidents in Coal Mines

†3459. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of Mines and Minerals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of people have been affected due to fire and landslides in the Jhariya and Raniganj area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(c) whether any study group has been set up by Government to conduct studies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the report and suggestions made therein; and

(e) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

rehabilitate the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) On the basis of various studies including the diagnostic study of mine fires in BCCL, it is estimated that around 22,000 houses/hutments in BCCL are falling in the critically endangered zone on account of fire and subsidence and need to be shifted.

(c) and (d) A number of study groups and committees have examined the issue in the past including the Standing Committee on Energy (1998-99) which also examined the fire and subsidence control in coal mines. The Standing Committee on Energy's report was submitted on 22.3.1999 and action taken report has also been forwarded to the Parliament. Prior to this Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) was constituted in December, 1996 to look into the problems of fire and subsidence in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields to recommend mitigative measures. The Committee submitted its report in January, 1998 and recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government of India. Details of the recommendations are furnished in Statement (*See* below).

(e) A pilot scheme for shifting of people from the most endangered areas has been prepared. BCCL has commenced construction of houses for the BCCL people. For the non-BCCL people, Govt. of Bihar has yet to constitute a Sub-Authority, in spite of several requests. The matter is being pursued through the District Authority.

Statement

Recommendation of the Committee

(i) Wherever possible settlements of all unstable area should be shifted to non coal bearing zones. For this purpose satellite townships are the best long term solution against subsidence hazards in the coalfields.

(ii) There should be a total ban on any new construction over declared unsafe areas in the coalfields. Govt. of Bihar should also enact a suitable legislation in line with the one already existing in West Bengal preventing construction over unsafe areas.

(iii) For tackling the problems of fire and subsidence both in Jharia Coalfields & Raniganj Coalfields, the participation and assistance

from State Govt. and local administration is essential. Any enforcing agency mitigating measures aginst fire and subsidence in RCF and FCF should be adequately represented by the above authorities.

(iv) The mitigation measures against subsidence and fire hazards are very costly options and fruitful implementation of these measures can only be possible through separate executing agency with such agencies responsible for formulating schemes, their implementation and management of funds should be finalised at the earliest. A broad outline of executing agencies has been evolved in consultation with the concerned State Govts., and the Govt., companies.

(v) The innovative hydro-pneumatic stowing technology currently being used at some locations in RCF has been found to be very slow process. High pressure slurry pumping technology for undergound void filling should be tried at some locations in BCCL for stabilising inaccessible unstable under ground workings.

(vi) Intensive stabilisation work of unstable areas under locations, like Raniganj town from where populations can not be shifted, should be carried out and persons affected in the high risk but low density areas may be relocated in a phased manner.

(vii) For arranging fund for the purpose of stablisation of subsidence prone areas and resettlement of affected people, the moeny could be made available either through planned expenditure as may be approved by Planning Commission or unplanned expenditure from Coal Conservation and development Act fund after making suitable amendments.

(viii) Considering the urgency one scheme each by ECL and BCCL for shifting of the population from the unsafe areas may be taken up without waiting for the positioning of the institutional arrangement from planned funds available with Deptt. of Coal.

(ix) The Interim Reprot submitted by BCCL and ECL jointly with State authorities on the fire and subsidence prone areas indicating likely affected population and financial implications should be

kept in view while drawing priority-wise schemes for immediate and effective way to deal with the problems.

Production of Coal

†3460 SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the comprehensive details of total production of coal in the country during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date;

(b) the target fixed for production of coal during the year 2000-2001;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the said target; and

(d) the action plan formulated by Government to allocate coal for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. SMT. RITA VERMA): (a) the details of total production of coal in India during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:—

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

SOURCE	1998-99	1999-2000*
CIL	256.48	260.69
SCCL	27.33	29.56
TISCO, IISCO, DVC CAPTIVE BLOCK & OTHERS	8.46	8.75
TOTAL	292.27	299.00

*Provisional

(b) The target fixed for production of coal for the year 2000-2001 is 308.07 million tonnes.

(c) The steps taken by the Govenment to achieve the target include, *interalia,* starting of new projects and opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, and upgradation of technology.

(d) The demand for coal is not assessed State-wise, but sector-wise and for the country as a whole. The total demand assessed by the Planning Commission for the year 2000-2001 is 338.85 million tonnes of coal and 5.02 million

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.